

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

-----291004Z 047271 /22

P 281010Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5925

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0969

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: SOWETO MARCH TURNS INTO CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 937, 955, 954

1. SOWETO'S PROTEST AGAINST RENT INCREASES TURNED TO VIOLENCE WHEN THE CROWD, ESTIMATED AT 10,000, REACHED JABULANI URBAN BANTU COUNCIL HALL. UNTIL THAT TIME, SOWETO POLICE CHIEF JAN VISSER KEPT HIS MEN AT A DISTANCE AND ALLOWED THE STUDENTS TO MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS PEACEFULLY. A SOURCE HAS REPORTED VISSER HAD MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH SSRC LEADER MOTSISI TO KEEP HIS MEN BACK IF THE STUDENTS KEPT THE MARCH PEACEFUL. THE MARCH WAS PEACEFUL UNTIL A CROWD STARTED THROWING ROCKS

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AT JABULANI AND TRIED TO FORCE THEIR WAY INTO THE UBC CENTER TO BURN IT, AT WHICH POINT TEARGAS WAS FIRED, AS WELL AS SOME WARNING SHOTS. THREE DEMONSTRATORS WERE WOUNDED (REFTEL) HOWEVER ONE WITNESS TOLD CONOF THAT ONE OF THESE MAY HAVE BEEN HIT BY A BURSTING TEAR GAS CONTAINER. A TOTAL OF 47 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REPORTED ARRESTED AS OF EARLY THIS MORNING HOWEVER POLICE ARE STILL HEAVILY PATROLLING THE TOWNSHIPS.

2. SOWTO LAST NIGHT WAS REPORTED AS 'SIMMERING' WITH SPORADIC CLASHES BETWEEN GROUPS OF ROCK-THROWING YOUTHS AND POLICE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER REPORTS OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

3. BRIGADIER VISSER HAS PLAYED THIS POTENTIALLY NASTY SITUATION COOLY AND WOULD SEEM TO HAVE ACTED WITH RESTRAINT. THIS INCIDENT, FROM ALL REPORTS, COULD HAVE BEEN AS SERIOUS AS THOSE OF LAST JUNE, BUT FOR THE FACT THAT IT APPEARS BOTH SIDES HAVE LEARNED SOME LESSONS FROM THAT TRAGEDY AND USED CAUTION IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE OTHER. THE ROLE THE SSRC PLAYED IN MOUNTING A MARCH OF 10,000 SHOWS THE STILL VERY POWERFUL INFLUENCE THAT GROUP EXERTS. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE SITUATION REPORTS THAT A GRUDGING RESPECT (THOUGH BY NO MEANS NECESSARILY LIKING EACH OTHER) BETWEEN SSRC'S MOTSISI AND POLICE CHIEF VISSER KEPT VICTIMS OF AT LEAST THIS CONFRONTATION TO A MINIMUM.  
KIRBY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, RENT CONTROLS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 2ae5b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 JOHANNESBURG 937  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOWETO MARCH TURNS INTO CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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